

STORY 42.

DUTY AS UNDERSTOOD BY A MUSLIM RULER.

THE Arabian sun was blazing. It was midday, and almost every man had sought the shelter of his house or tent. Some one saw (Hazrat) Omar running hither and thither as if he was looking for something.

He asked him what he was looking for.

The Caliph replied "A camel belonging to the Bait-ul-Mal is missing. I am looking for it."

"Commander of the faithful, why don't you order some slave to do it" said the man.

The tone of (Hazrat) Omar's reply was rather severe but what he said embodies a sublime rule for the guidance of the rulers of the world. "Am I not like every other Muslim a slave of the commonwealth of Islam? I alone am responsible for the Bait-ul-Mal and it is my duty to take care of what belongs to it. Why should others be made to do my work. Every one has his own burden to bear" said (Hazrat) Omar.

STORY 43.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN MUSLIM SOCIETY.

ONCE when (Hazrat) Omar was Khalifa some sheets of cloth came from Yamen. The Khalifa distributed them among the Muslims. One sheet fell to his own share and one to that of his son. The Khalifa being without a shirt wanted to make one for himself. But being very tall one sheet would not do for him. So his son gave him his sheet, and the shirt was made.

Some time after this (Hazrat) Omar had to call the people to arms for Jihad. With that shirt on, he went to the Mosque where the Muslims were assembled for prayers, and called upon them to get ready to go to the front. While he was addressing the people, a voice from the audience broke in "We will not obey you because you do not deal equitably".

(Hazrat) Omar had a fiery temper, but he was not in the least excited by this reflection cast upon his character and asked quietly "What have I done to deserve this charge?" "When you distributed the sheets from Yamen one sheet fell to the lot of each man. You were entitled to one, but one sheet is not sufficient for a shirt. It appears you took two, and if this is so you are unjust and have no right to our obedience," said the man.

Upon this (Hazrat) Omar called upon his son